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selecting his facts to suit his theory quite as much as some writers of whom he complains. Many ideas are put forward which are suggestive, but we cannot agree, especially in view of recent judicial action, that France has already reached a position where details alone prevent the realization of an ideal democracy.

C. H. LINCOLN.

Philadelphia.

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*Area and Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census.* By WALTER F. WILLCOX. Economic Studies. Vol. II, No. 4. Pp. 50. Price, 50 cents. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1897.

*Density and Distribution of Population in the United States at the Eleventh Census.* By WALTER F. WILLCOX. Economic Studies. Vol. II, No. 6. Pp. 70. Price, 50 cents. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897.

Practical considerations lead to the division of Professor Willcox's study of the population of the United States into two sections. These really belong together and may be so treated in a review. The essay is designed as an introduction to the social statistics of the United States, but before taking up this topic, deals with the significance of statistics in general and of the place of the United States among the great nations of the world. The view of statistics which is here presented at once clearly and concisely, is one which has the hearty commendation of the reviewer, and upon which he has frequently insisted. The author regards statistics merely as the numerical study of facts, but believes that a consideration of the application of the statistical method to the concrete problems of population is, after all, the best way in which to impress upon the student the nature of the method and the care with which it must be exercised.

The determination of area, so necessary for a correct computation of the density of population, belongs to the geographer, but through a careful analysis of the available material for our own country, Professor Willcox shows that the statistician cannot always accept the geographer's statements without scrutiny. He establishes the fact that we are far from having an accurate knowledge of the size of the various counties, or even of the states, which compose our national domain.

This discussion is preliminary to a consideration of the accuracy of the second factor, which determines the density of population, namely, the number of inhabitants. This involves a brief discussion

of census methods and of the method of determining population at other than census periods. The result of this critical analysis is to establish the substantial accuracy of the population statistics of the eleventh census.

The grouping of the population in the various states is a preliminary to the study of the density of population. The writer shows how unsatisfactory for the purposes of accurate information is the calculation of the density of large divisions of the earth's surface. His own study of the United States is based upon his computations of the densities of the populations of counties. Graphically represented, this method gives us a less harmonious picture than is furnished by the density map of the census, but on the other hand, it rests on a basis which is thoroughly comprehensible. The census map relates exclusively to the non-urban population, while the method employed by Professor Willcox makes no distinction between urban and rural. On the other hand, the census map does not follow the civil subdivisions of the country. While, therefore, it may be entirely correct, it is not within the capacity of any individual to verify it. Furthermore, the division in the groups of population as represented by the different shades of the census map has been dictated by reasons which Professor Willcox holds to be inadequate, and which certainly sin against the rule that such divisions should, so far as possible, be made equal in size and should adapt themselves to the decimal notation. In the small map given by Professor Willcox we have better adaptation to the usual notation. A brief consideration of the regions of greatest density of population is followed by a consideration of the individual states with their peculiar distribution. In this chapter the states are arranged alphabetically, an arrangement which has certain disadvantages. We believe that this portion of the work would have been of greater interest had the author followed the principle of geographical contiguity and not forced the reader to pass from Alabama to Alaska, thence to Arizona, thence to Arkansas, and so through the list of states and territories.

We have felt that a description of the contents of these pamphlets would be the best review. An orderly arrangement of the subject-matter, a clear and concise style, a suggestive treatment of the relations between the population and various economic factors, characterizes the work. The author's keen criticism is well exhibited in this essay, which is an interesting evidence of the value of the work of the private statistician. He has given us an example of the application of the statistical method, which will be welcome to all economists who are sanguine for the progress of their science,

through the exercise of a dispassionate and critical analysis of facts. This is in truth the function of the statistician in the realm of economic thought, but unfortunately all those who have assumed the name have not been so fully alive to the responsibilities and duties which this function involves as is the author of the present work.

ROLAND P. FALKNER.